



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (15-1703)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, Commissioner Johanna Arias-Bhatia, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Susan Burton and Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D.

Excused: Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio and Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Staff Present: Bolaji Famuyiwa and Roy Sinclair. (15-1704)

Call to Order. (15-1592)

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Self-introductions were made by all in attendance.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the April 8, 2015 Minutes. (15-1593)

On motion of Donald S. Andrews, seconded by Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio, unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS FOR APRIL 15, 2015

2. Department of Auditor-Controller (AC). (15-1594)

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies of the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Semi-Annual Report for the period of July 1 through December 31, 2014. She also reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report during the month of March 2015:

Hotline Requests for Assistance

- **20 Total calls**
- **15 Youth callers**
- **5 Adult callers**

3 Joint Visits/Outreach with Probation Ombudsman

- **New Concept**
- **Rosemary Children's Services (5 sites)**
- **Phoenix House**

She concluded by reporting that a total of 12 outreach visits were made during the month on March 2015.

3. Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). (15-1595)

Ms. Rhonda David Shirley, DCFS, Out of Home Care Management Division, reported that Children Are Our Future was placed on a Termination Hold and that all youth will be transitioned to another group home by April 30, 2015.

Ms. Korliss Robinson, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, reported that during the month of March 2015 there were a total of 875 Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and the child abuse hotline received a total of 18 referrals in the following categories:

March 2015 referrals

- **5 General Neglect**
- **1 Emotional Abuse**
- **6 Physical Abuse**
- **5 Sexual Abuse**
- **1 Caretaker Absence**

During the same reporting period, 38 referrals were closed for the following reasons:

- 18 unfounded
- 13 Inconclusive
- 6 Evaluated out
- 1 Substantiated

During the same reporting period, 38 referrals were closed for the following categories:

- 10 Sexual Abuse
- 2 Emotional Abuse
- 19 General Neglect
- 7 Physical Abuse

The Commission would prefer that the monthly report provided by DCFS details incidents by category and reflect the facilities or group homes involved.

- 4. Internal Services Department (ISD). (15-1596)**

There was no representative present.

- 5. Department of Mental Health (DMH). (15-1597)**

Ms. Zoe Trachetenberg, LCSW, Program Director, DMH, reported that DMH issued statement of eligibility for funding to contract agencies that have group homes and are providing mental health services to the un-escorted children who are crossing the U.S. border from various countries. This will help to expand mental health services to the youth who are in group homes as well as those residing in various communities.

- 6. Probation Department (PD). (15-1598)**

Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Group Home Monitoring and Investigations Unit, Placement Services Bureau, PD, provided the monthly status report of group home AWOLs for the month of March 2015 as follows:

There were 149 AWOLs

- 129 Youth involved
- 39 Remain AWOL

- 69 Returned to group homes
- 20 Youth AWOLed more than once
- 12 Placed in Juvenile Hall
- 2 County Jail
- 1 Terminated

During the same period, Ms. Pease also reported on the number of investigations as follows:

1 Child abuse

- 1 inconclusive

3 Group home investigations

Ms. Pamela Pease also reported that Children Are Our Future contract was terminated and Touch A Life Foundation (2 sites) contracts will not be renewed upon its expiration on April 30, 2015.

Ms. Pease will provide staff with an updated copy of her report on the status on group home monitoring, investigations and statistical findings regarding probation youth.

7. Sheriff's Department (SD). (15-1599)

Lieutenant Brian Fitch, SD, reported that the SD is expanding its Jail Mental Health Evaluation Team countywide (JAMET) and looking at implementing psych video conferencing in an effort to assist staff with issues that arise with inmates. SD will provide 40 hours of mental health training to all new deputies within the academy and will also receive an additional 40 hours of post academy training .

Commissioner Bigby inquired if the SD will provide mental health training to the over 15,000 deputies and personnel who are already on the force.

Lieutenant Fitch stated that all SD personnel will receive mental health services training.

Chair Montaña cited an article that appeared in the newspaper regarding funding to provide training to 200 new deputies coming out of the SD academy.

Alicia Ault, Commander, SD Court Services Division, provided additional clarification regarding the training of SD personnel.

She stated that there are two points of clarification. First, the funding that Chair Montaña referred to is directed to services being provided in custody. Second, the SD training of the patrol team is an on-going effort in providing necessary mental health training to deputies, and when the deputies leave the jail facilities they receive additional specialized mental health training.

Commissioner Grills inquired if the SD is in discussion/collaboration with the DMH to place resources in primary prevention and early intervention which would possibly reduce the number of people suffering from mental health issues from going into the jail system.

Commander Ault stated that the SD has a strong relationship with Los Angeles Superior Court Judge James Bianco in urging the State of California into providing inmates the services they need. Her role is to partner with the judges and bring valuable information to assist in providing mental health and other services to inmates in custody.

Ms. Zoe Trachetenberg, LCSW, Program Director, DMH, added that Senate Bill 82 (SB82) provides a funding stream to fund urgent care centers that provide early prevention and primary mental health services to children and adults. DMH is working with the ACLU and other organizations to disseminate information regarding the availability of mental health services to the community.

The Commission thanked the SD for submitting a report which addressed the Commission's inquiry regarding several issues of concern, and requested that the SD provide a legend to help the Commissioners interpret and understand the report. The Commission also requested that the SD resume submitting a detailed report as they did in the past.

Chair Montaña thanked Commander Ault and Lieutenant Fitch for their report.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

8. Chairperson's Report on various items. (15-1600)

Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews shared the following Newspaper Articles and information with the Commission:

Daily Breeze:

- Program for Mentally ill Inmates to be Expanded (April 15, 2015)

Los Angeles Times:

- County Worker Could Get Job Back (April 12, 2015)
- County Was Slow to Cut Ties to Troubled Agency (April 5, 2015)

Daily News:

- Psych drugs Misused on Kids (March 31, 2015 - Submitted by former Commissioner Maxine Russell)

Commissioner Andrews:

- Los Angeles County to Fully Implement Laura's Law

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

9. Treasurer's Report. (15-1601)

There was no report presented.

10. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports. (15-1602)

Staff distributed the 2015 Group Home Inspection Roster to the Commissioners and SBC 2015 Scholarship Applications. The Commission by consensus will award scholarships to three deserving students.

11. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports. (15-1603)

In Compliance:

Commissioner Bigby visited:

- Heritage Group Home #5 (Baseline Road, La Verne, CA) on April 14, 2015.

12. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from April 9, 2015 to April 14, 2015. (15-1604)

During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited:

- **San Fernando Court (Third Street, San Fernando, CA) on April 14, 2015.**
- **Children Are Our Future "Legg House" (Merion Drive, Northridge, CA) on April 13, 2015 and noted the home is closed and all youth will be transitioned another group home by April 30, 2015.**
- **Torrance Court (Maple Avenue, Torrance, CA) on April 10, 2015 and noted the judges parking lot is not secure.**

Commissioner Grills visited:

- **Dream Catcher Foundation #1 (West 42nd Street, Los Angeles, CA) on April 15, 2015.**

Not Home:

Commissioner Bigby visited:

- **Five Acres "Solita Group Home" (Solita Road, Pasadena, CA) on April 10, 2015 and noted no one was home**

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

- 13.** Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-1605)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

- 14.** Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-1606)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

Adjournment for the meeting of April 15, 2015. (15-1607)

- 15.** **There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of April 15, 2015 at 12:06 p.m.**